



PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

Preliminary Review of Changes to
Water Recreation Regulations WAC 246-260

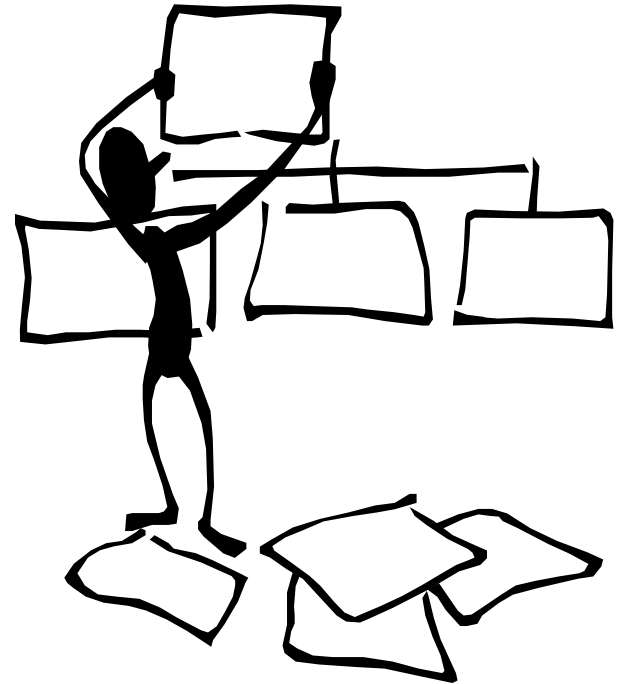


Primary Task

- Revise to:
 - Comply with Regulatory Reform
 - Improve use for owners, operators, designers & builders
 - Consolidate.
- Update for new technology since last revised 12 years ago

Reorganization

- Sections consolidated & regrouped
 - Design and Build
 - Operation
 - Administrative





Development of Guidance Documents

- Department working with local health pool adhoc committee to develop guidance documents to support the regulation
- Plan to have many completed in conjunction with regulation passing to aid in application



Regulation Changes Having Significant Impact

- **Lifeguarding** requirements for private clubs
- Bringing **barriers** [e.g. fencing] into compliance with new regulation
- Providing protection of **single main drain** pools with emergency shut-off switch & audible alarm for swimming, wading and spray pools. [This has been a requirement for all spa pools since 1990.]



Comparing Lifeguard Requirements for General Use Pools

Current Regulations

- $>$ or $=$ 1500 SF, provide **lifeguards at all times**
- $<$ 1500 SF, if don't have lifeguards, provide **adult supervision** for children 12 & under, 13-17 don't swim alone

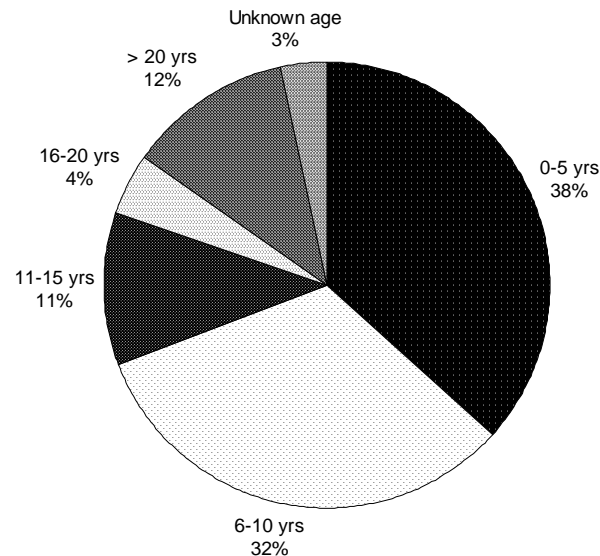
New Regulations

- Size of pool is no longer a factor, all general use pools shall **lifeguard** the pool **regardless of size** of pool.
- **Private clubs** required to have lifeguarding only when used by youth 16 years of age and under

Submersions at Regulated Facilities

- 81% submersions between ages 1-15

submersions reported at regulated facilities 1991-2002





New Barrier Requirements

Existing barriers will come into compliance by **June, 2008**. Will affect pools built **before 1990**.

Areas of impact include:

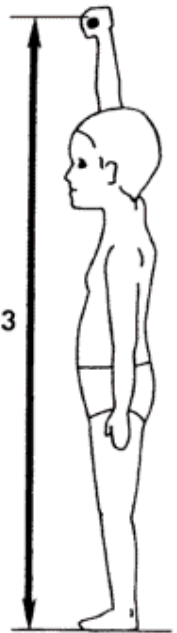
- Barrier height
- Barrier vertical spacing
- Barrier horizontal spacing

Increased Height

- Will make access more difficult for a wider range of smaller children
- Current code allows pools built before 1990 to maintain a minimum height of 48 inches, new code will raise minimum to 60 inches

Vertical Grip Reach for
50% of that Age Range

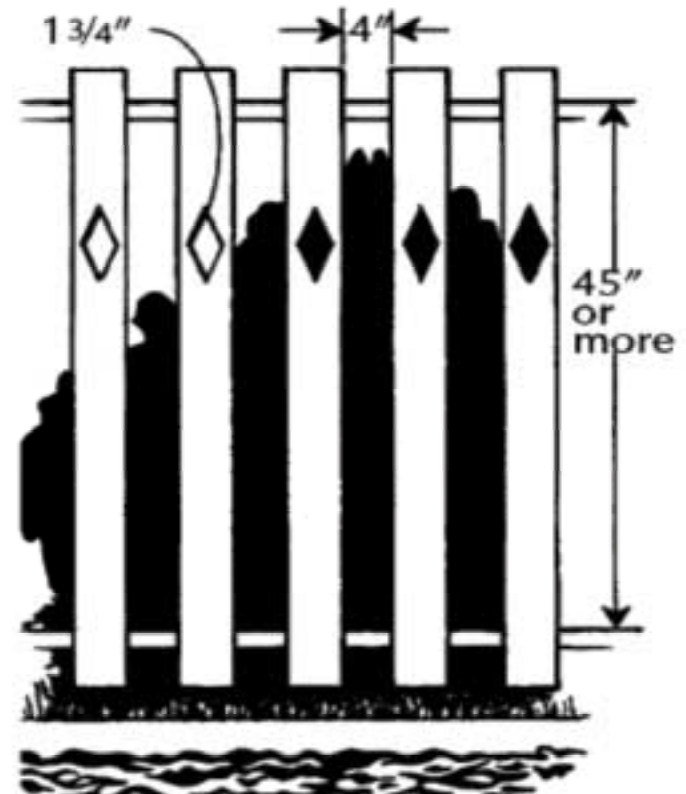
Age Range	Height of vertical grip reach*
4 1/2 to 5 1/2 yrs	49.7"
6 1/2 to 7 1/2 yrs	59.8"



*Anthropometrics for infants, children and youths to age 18

Vertical Spacing

- 95% of children under the age of nine years old are able to fit through a 6 inch opening
- Most ambulatory children will be stopped with the four-inch vertical width



Horizontal Spacing

- When horizontal spacing is too close with large openings, it creates a ladder children can climb over



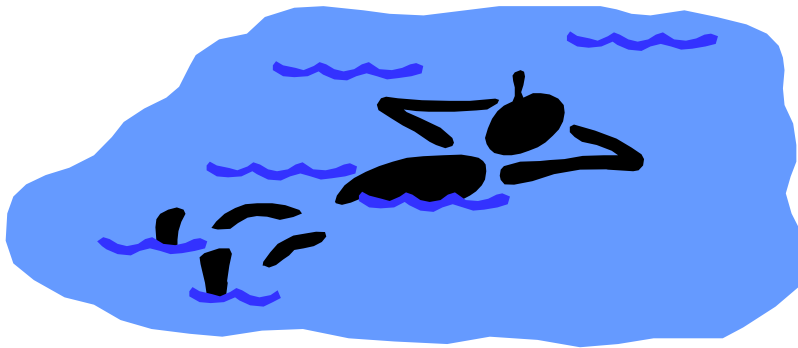
Emergency Shut off Switch & Audible Alarm

- For swimming, wading, & recirculating spray pools with **single** main drains, an emergency shut-off switch & audible alarm will need to be installed by June, 2008.
- All of the swimming and wading pools built since 1990 have 2 or more main drains. Will only apply to pools built prior with single main drain.



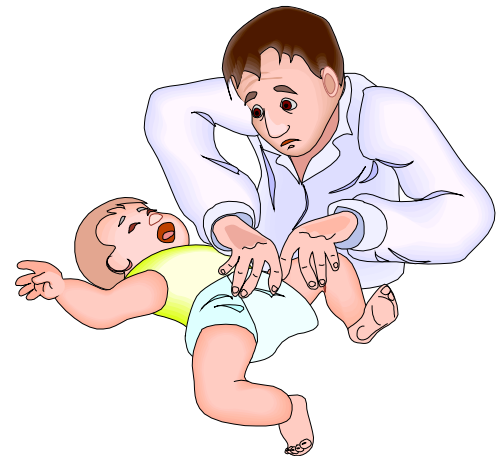
Design and Construction Overall

- Consolidated similar comments
- Reducing detail of many sections & level of review



Plumbing Fixtures

- Shower facility temperature to 120 F
- Diaper-changing stations



Spa Sections

- Simplified decking
- Emergency: telephone
- Added new section to limit requirements on smaller facility spas in <15 unit motels, B&B



Spray Pools

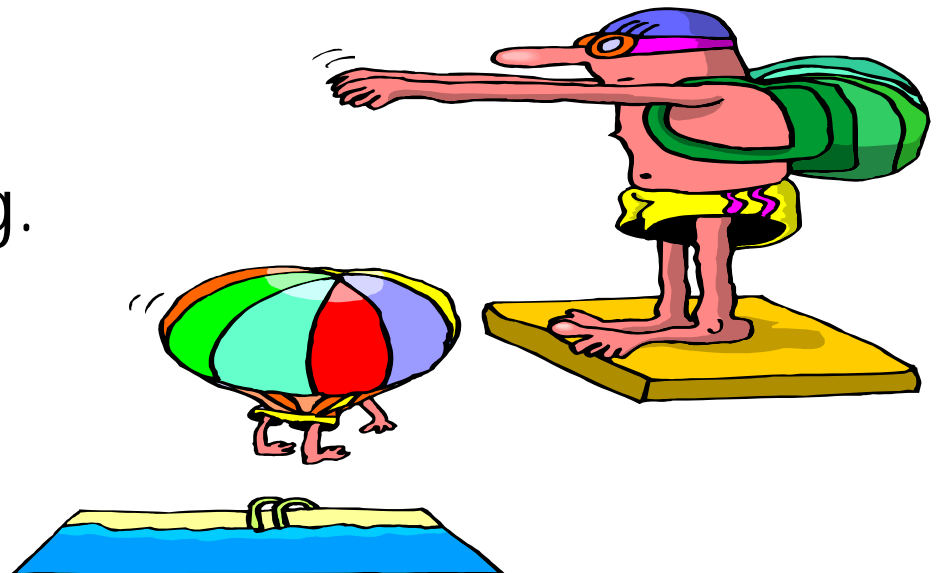
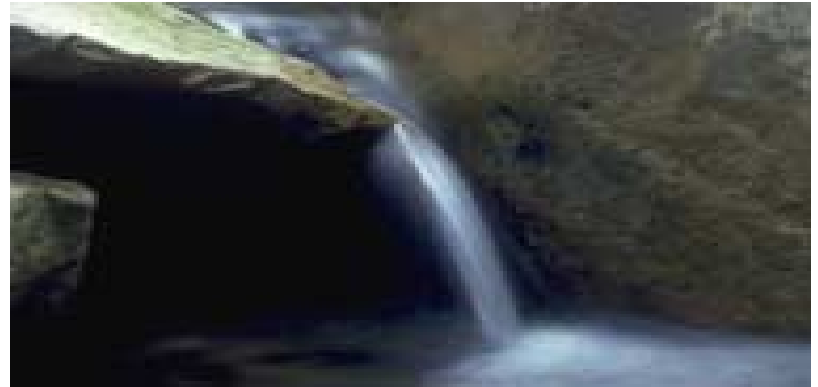
- Added new sections to address recirculating spray pools
- Addresses issues with spray placement and forces



Special Features Section

Addresses:

- Waterfalls, rockeries, plantings, benches
- Play toys
- Special use pools, e.g. county fairs, scuba..





Pool Closure Section

Addresses:

- Pool & Spa in same area w/ pool closed for season.
- Added requirement for frozen pools
- Detailed requirements and options for abandoned pools.



PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**